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From Our Point Of View:

STATINTL

Kennedy's Administrative Ability Faces Hard Test

GEN. MAXWELL D. TAYLOR'S report on CIA's handling of the April 17 Cuban invasion hasn't been officially completed yet, but there are good indications of what recommendations it will contain. He will probably suggest making CIA a strictly information-gathering agency—much like its counterparts in Europe—and assigning responsibility for paramilitary operations such as the Cuban affair to a new organization in the Pentagon. On paper, this sounds like just what is needed. But it will be a real test of President Kennedy's administrative abilities to get it carried out effectively.

There should not be great difficulty in limiting CIA's job to information-gathering. Director Allen W. Dulles is said to have given an unqualified resignation to the President. Some housecleaning on the lower echelons is undoubtedly also in order. CIA reportedly has more employees than the State Department. Any necessary housecleaning can be carried out relatively easily, if Kennedy can find the right man to replace Dulles. This is where he is likely to run into difficulties.

THERE IS ALREADY some pressure on the President to bring Taylor into the government on a permanent basis, and give him the job. At first impression, this would seem like a brilliant choice. Taylor is one of those relatively rare individuals who have combined a military career with continued interest in every area of human activity. He is sensitive to political realities as well as technical military problems. CIA under his guidance would not make another mistake comparable to its assignment of former Batista aides to high positions in the April 17 invasion force. But the possibility of making such mistakes would be largely eliminated if Taylor's recommendations for limiting CIA functions is carried

out. But Taylor's talents could be put to better use in other positions besides CIA director.

Specifically, it is difficult to think of anyone better suited than Taylor to head the new organization for "unorthodox" military operations which Taylor reportedly would like to see created in the Pentagon. Its main job would be to work closely with officers of nations threatened with Communist guerrilla actions—such as South Vietnam—in creating native forces to cope with underground tactics. Not just any military officer, even the most competent, could successfully direct such an agency. Most Pentagon professionals, even those friendly to expansion of "conventional" ground forces, seem to regard the growing emphasis on "unorthodox" and guerrilla forces as something they must accept but not encourage. The new organization Taylor envisions could be buried in the Pentagon if it is not headed by someone from outside present Pentagon ranks. Taylor showed, while he was Army chief of staff in the late 1950's, that he has a particular talent for arguing viewpoints that are unpopular among professional military leaders.

Kennedy undoubtedly is tempted to place Taylor at the head of a new, streamlined CIA. Reportedly he is also considering eliminating the military services' separate intelligence units and bringing them into CIA. These two moves would be a dramatic gesture, something a politician likes to pass up. But this is not the place for dramatics. Kennedy has learned anything from five months of wrestling with the Washington bureaucracy, he will resist the temptation. CIA needs a quiet, efficient administrator. The military services need separate intelligence units. And the proposed military subversion needs a director who can get public support